

American Rescue Plan - Local Government Funds

Framework Plan to **Build Back a Better** St Louis

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) is an unprecedented investment of \$1.9 Trillion. It includes much needed funding for states, local governments, local businesses, and families to receive economic relief and additional testing, vaccine and response funding to address the health crisis.

The ARP is historic Plan to address the public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP puts us on a path to beating the virus, it gives families the breathing room they need to meet this difficult moment, schools will have the resources to be open safely, and unemployment benefits will be extended for over 11mil Americans.

The amount of funding to Cities and Counties is calculated using the method for determining Community Development Block Grant allocations. The computation takes into account the population growth rate, extent of poverty, extent of housing overcrowding, extent of growth lag, and the age of housing.

Based on these factors, especially the extreme poverty in the City of St Louis, we are expected to receive **\$517 million** over the next two years. The final amount will be determined by the U.S. Treasury

The Local Government funds can be used to...

- Respond to the Covid-19 emergency and address its economic effects, including aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and industries such as tourism and hospitality.
- Provide premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers during the pandemic. Premium pay couldn't exceed \$13 per hour above regular wages or \$25,000 per worker.
- Measure revenue loss as "the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue" of the entity "due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year" prior to the emergency.
- To make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The funds may **not** be used to offset any tax cut or to pay pension funds.

Fifty percent of the Local Government Funds will be distributed within 60 days of the President's signing. The second tranche of funds will be distributed to localities 12 months after the initial allocation. Funds will be spent over approximately 3.5 years, with all funds spent by 12/31/24.

The residents and businesses of the St Louis have suffered severely, both personally and financially, during the Pandemic. A sense of urgency to address these needs is of paramount importance.

The following Framework Plan is for the Local Government Funding is intended to meet the human and business crisis as quickly and effectively as possible, and help St Louis **BUILD BACK BETTER**.

I. The Housing Crisis

The pandemic has raged for over a year. Over the last 12 months many individuals and families have lost their jobs, or have their hours reduced. This loss of income has caused them to fall behind on their rent, mortgage, and utilities. Some are still in their housing because of the eviction moratorium, but their rent, mortgages, and utilities are still due. Some have been put out of their housing in spite of the moratorium. More people and families are homeless today than ever before. Some are ‘couch surfing’, staying with friends off and on, and some are literally sleeping under bridges, in vacant buildings, in parks, or on the street.

Shelters that previously provided emergency beds, were forced to reduce their capacity to prevent the spread of COVID. Over the past year of the pandemic, the City of St Louis has worked with providers and volunteers to add more than 485 additional shelter beds. During extreme cold, those shelters also functioned during the day.

We propose to continue to fund the new shelter beds, establish 500 new shelter beds, establish and operate a 24/7 Navigation Drop In Center, provide rental, mortgage, utility, legal and mediation assistance. Additionally, the city will partner to operate a Sobering Center, provide transportation and food delivery to seniors, provide funding for additional affordable housing, and support and expand child care centers. This will be accomplished through various City departments and through contracts with private entities and not for profit agencies managed by various City departments. The outline of those activities by Department is provided below.

Department of Human Services:

Immediate needs.....

• to fund current shelters through 12/31/2021	\$4,500,000
• new shelters beds within 12 months	4,750,000
• 24/7 Nagivation drop in Center	2,650,000
• Utility Assistance	2,000,000
• Rental Legal/mediation services	900,000
• Sobering Center operations	600,000
• Fund Rideshare for Seniors	400,000
• Fund Grocery delivery for seniors (i.e. Instacart)	<u>200,000</u>
Total	\$16,000,000

Year 2	\$10,000,000
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Rental and Mortgage Assistance

The City of St Louis had received 9000 applications for rental and mortgage assistance under the CARES Act. More than 7000 applications have been processed and continue to be processed using remaining CARES ACT Funds and HR133 funds. The \$9,000,000 funds received under HR133 directly by the City are sufficient to only process 1800 additional applications. There is an immediate need for additional funding to bridge the time gap between receipt of the America Rescue Plan funds flowing thru the state of Missouri.

Immediate need

\$15,000,000

Affordable Housing Commission

Expand affordable housing units with supportive services units by leveraging the AFHC investment with state and federal incentives to encourage more private developers to bring this housing online in the City.

Immediate need - Fund Bricks and mortar applications
Year 2

\$ 10,000,000

\$ 10,000,000

II Public Safety

SLDC - Prop NS –

The Prop NS Program is a strategic initiative with a goal of stabilizing, securing, and selling vacant residential buildings owned by the City of St. Louis Land Reutilization Authority (LRA). The program was established by a community-initiated and voter-approved ordinance to create a dedicated source of funding to make it possible for LRA to improve properties within the City's landbank of vacant buildings. This investment is intended to increase the likelihood that these properties will be purchased by private parties who will then finish their rehab and transform current deteriorating buildings into decent housing for their communities.

ARP funding will allow for stabilization and sale of hundreds more LRA properties through additional funding of the Prop NS program. This will stabilize neighborhoods, provide workforce housing where families can build equity, and repopulate neighborhoods.

Immediate - Supplement Current appropriations
Year 2
Year 3

\$ 4,000,000

\$ 4,000,000

\$ 4,000,000

Building Division

Removal of derelict buildings which are structurally unsafe, likely contain significant lead hazards, and harbor the opportunity for criminal activity, leading to unsafe conditions for the hard-working neighbors who live nearby. Removing these unsafe buildings also provides the opportunity for green space, gardening, cleaner air, and a tree canopy.

Immediate
Year 2
Year 3

\$ 3,000,000

\$ 4,500,000

\$ 6,000,000

911 Diversion, Cops & Clinicians

Expand the 911 Diversion program and the Cops & Clinicians program to be City Wide. When society's systems and safety nets fail the situation often ends up with a call to 911. When police, fire, or EMS respond, often their only option is either a corrections facility or a hospital emergency room. Frequently, neither of those options meet the needs of the individual or family in distress. The 911 diversion, and cops

and clinicians programs provide the opportunity for a trained mental health provider to respond and to connect them with mental health services. **\$ 8,000,000**

Essential Employees pay equity.

Provide adequate compensation to EMT, Fire, Police, and Dispatchers to attract new employees and retain current employees. Currently hundreds of well-trained and valuable employees leave each year for departments who offer better pay. This pay disparity also impairs our ability to fill over 250 open public safety positions.

Media stories have recently highlighted the City's difficulty providing top quality services in Corrections, 911 response, police clearance rates, and EMT services. The employees in these departments are dedicated, hardworking, and experienced. Many issues are directly related to staff shortages in EMT, Police, Dispatch and Corrections. The City salary structure for many of these positions is significantly less than in neighboring jurisdictions. Bringing positions up to a competitive salary level will make recruiting and retention more possible, reduce employee shortages and overtime, and improve service.

Immediate	\$ 5,000,000
Year 2	\$ 15,000,000
Year 3	\$ 25,000,000

III. Employment and Bringing Back Business

SLDC

- Provide \$10,000 grants to small business to offset current payroll costs and allow business to apply for \$25,000 forgivable loans to expand and modify space for outdoor seating, rework interior spaces for better social distancing in all businesses.

Immediate	\$ 25,000,000
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- Transportation planning to connect jobs to residents **\$ 750,000**

STL 2030 Jobs Plan: Driving a Decade of Inclusive Growth

The draft STL 2030 Jobs Plan: Driving a Decade of Growth is a plan to create a significant number of quality jobs. It states it is an Actionable Jobs Plan, Not a Report. It calls for the community to make a commitment to work together in bold new ways to create more high quality job opportunities, while also acting with intention so that all residents have access to those opportunities.

Follow this link to the full report [STL 2030 Jobs Plan | GreaterSTLInc](#)
Two of the specific objectives of the STL 2030 Jobs Plan are...

- **SUPPLY STL** – leverage regional anchor institutions purchasing power to grow diverse-owned businesses
- **TALENT ALLIANCE** – Establish a constellation of sector focused workforce development collaboratives to meet industry demand.

Provide seed capital to collaboratively launch Supply STL and Talent Alliance. These initiatives will also develop private and philanthropic funding for the effort. This effort will grow the minority business supply network, assist with professional services needed, create greater access to PPP, and create more minority businesses success. .

\$ 9,000,000

IV. Critical Infrastructure

- **Parks & Recreation Centers.-** Increase safety protocols, physical barriers, and upgrade HVAC system to deter virus transmission and reduce operating costs **\$ 32,000,000**
- **Upgrade Corrections facility** **\$ 13,400,000**
- **Rolling Stock** **\$ 10,000,000**
- **Water Infrastructure** **\$ 25,000,000**

V. General Revenue Replacement

Revenue lost during the pandemic due to the downturn in business and employment,

Immediate	\$ 18,000,000
Year 2	\$ 67,000,000
Year 3	\$ 50,000,000
Year 4	\$ 40,000,000

VI. Health Department

- **Health Department Facility** - Replace or upgrade the Department of Health facilities due to its age, accessibility challenges, limited space for health and human services programs. The replacement facility must include a unique combination health clinic, housing services, services for our aging population and will provide visitors and employees a safer, healthier and updated facility. We will need to collaborate with multidisciplinary corporate and healthcare experts to develop a blended approach that includes consulting expertise in workplace design and clinic process mapping. **\$ 15,000,000**
- **Animal Shelter Facility** - The facility that serves as the Animal Shelter is too small to house animals that are captured and surrendered. The lack of space and improper plumbing pose challenges for the health department's Animal Care and Control staff, and Care STL, the vendor contracted to provide Animal Care and Control Services. Transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory conditions may spread from people to animals in some situations. A facility with proper ventilation, plumbing, and size, is needed. **\$ 2,000,000**
- **Childcare Services** - Safe, reliable and stable childcare services are an integral part of getting our workforce back to work. Many childcare providers need better spacing and operating facilities. Provide forgivable loans of up to \$100,000 to allow them to expand, improve HVAC ventilation, and upgrade facilities. **\$ 2,500,000**

VII. Administration

Administration Costs –

Immediate

\$ 350,000

Year 2

\$ 1,000,000

Year 3

\$ 1,000,000

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021							
Summary - Build Back Better							
		Immediate 2021	Year 2 2022	Year 3 2023	Year 4 2024	Total	By Dept
I	The Housing Crisis						
	Human Services	16,000,000	10,000,000			26,000,000	
	Rental & Mtg Assist	15,000,000				15,000,000	
	Affordable Housing	10,000,000	10,000,000			20,000,000	
						-	61,000,000
II	Public Safety					-	
	SLDC Prop NS	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000		12,000,000	
	Building Div Derelict Bldg Removal	3,000,000	4,500,000	6,000,000		13,500,000	
	911 Diversion, Cops Clinicians City	2,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000		8,000,000	
	Essential Employees pay equity	5,000,000	15,000,000	25,000,000		45,000,000	78,500,000
						-	
III	Employment & Bringing Back Biz					-	
	SLDC	15,000,000	10,750,000			25,750,000	
	STL 2030 Jobs Plan	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000		9,000,000	34,750,000
						-	
IV	Critical Infrastructure					-	
	Parks & Rec	2,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000		32,000,000	
	Upgrade Corrections facility	7,000,000	6,400,000			13,400,000	
	Rolling Stock	5,000,000	5,000,000			10,000,000	
	Water Infrastructure	5,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000		25,000,000	80,400,000
						-	
V	General Rev Replacement	18,000,000	67,000,000	50,000,000	40,000,000	175,000,000	175,000,000
						-	
VI	Health Department					-	
	Health Dept Clinic Facility			15,000,000		15,000,000	
	Animal Shelter Facility		2,000,000			2,000,000	
	Childcare facility assistance	1,000,000	1,500,000			2,500,000	19,500,000
						-	
VII	Administration	350,000	1,000,000	1,000,000		2,350,000	2,350,000
						-	
						-	
		111,350,000	168,150,000	132,000,000	40,000,000	451,500,000	451,500,000
						451,500,000	